

THOUGHTS ON THE CORONATION

Of his present MAJESTY

ADVERTISEMENT
KING GEORGE THE THIRD.

Reasons offered against confining the Proceffion to
the ufual Track, and pointing out others more
commodious and proper.

To which are prefixed,

A Plan of the different Paths recommended, with the Parts
adjacent, and a Sketch of the Proceffion.

Most humbly submitted to Consideration.

L O N D O N:

Printed for the PROPRIETOR, and fold by F. NOBLE, oppofite Gray's-Inn
Gate, Holbourn; J. NOBLE, in St. Martin's Court, near Leicefter-Square;
W. BATHOE, near Exeter-Chance, in the Strand; and H. YATES,
at the Royal-Exchange.

M DCC LXI.

[Price One Shilling and Six-pence.]

ADVERTISEMENT.

THE PROPRIETOR having been at some Expence and Trouble in this Undertaking, (trifling as the Work may appear,) he hopes he shall be suffered to reap the Fruits of his Labour, by an unmolested Enjoyment of the Profits (whatever they may be) that may accrue from the Sale of it. And in order thereto, he has taken Care to comply with every Injunction directed by the Act of Parliament provided for the Security of Copies, of which the Compilers of News-Papers, and all others, are desired to take Notice.

The Reader is also hereby informed,

That the usual Method of passing in Procession at Coronations, is four a-breast, tho', for want of Room, there are but two marked on the Print. And that the several new Tracks proposed, are distinguished on the Plan by a red Line, and the old Path by a yellow.



Most humbly submitted to Consideration.

L O N D O N :

Printed for the Proprietor, and sold by F. Moore, opposite Gray's Inn, in St. Martin's Lane, near the Theatre; and by W. BARNES, near the Strand, and H. YATES, at the Royal Exchange.

M DCC LXXI.

[Price One Shilling and six pence.]

THOUGHTS

ON THE

CORONATION, &c.

ALL Pomp is instituted for the sake of the Public. A Shew without Spectators can no longer be a Shew. Magnificence in Obscurity is equally vain with *a Sun-dial in the Grave.*

As the Wisdom of our Ancestors has appointed a very splendid and ceremonious Inauguration of our Kings, their Intention was that they should receive their Crown with such awful Rites, as might for ever impress upon them a due Sense of the Duties which they were to take, when the Happiness of Nations is put into their Hands; and that the People, as many as can possibly be Witnesses to any single Act, should openly acknowledge their Sovereign by universal Homage.

By the late Method of conducting the Coronation, all these Purposes have been defeated. Our Kings, with their Train, have crept to the Temple through obscure Passages; and the Crown has been worn out of Sight of the People. Of the Multitudes, whom Loyalty or Curiosity brought together, the greater Part has returned without a single Glimpse of their Prince's Grandeur, and the Day that opened with Festivity ended in Discontent.

This Evil has proceeded from the narrowness and shortness of the Way through which the Procession has lately passed. As it is narrow, it admits of very few Spectators; as it is short, it is soon passed. The first Part of the Train reaches the Abbey before

4 THOUGHTS on the CORONATION.

fore the whole has left the Palace; and the Nobility of *England*, in their Robes of State, display their Riches only to themselves.

All this Inconvenience may be easily avoided by chusing a wider and longer Course, which may be again enlarged and varied by going one Way, and returning another. This is not without a Precedent; for, not to enquire into the Practice of remoter Princes, the Procession of *Charles* the Second's Coronation issued from the *Tower*, and passed through the whole length of the City to *Whitehall*. *

The Path in the late Coronations has been only from *Westminster-Hall*, along *New Palace-Yard*, into *Union-street*, through the extreme End of *King-street*, and to the *Abbey Door*, by the Way of *St. Margaret's Church-yard*.

The Paths which I propose the Procession to pass through, are,

I. From *St. James's Palace*, along *Pall-Mall* and *Charing-Cross*, by *Whitehall*, through *Parliament-street*, down *Bridge-street*, into *King-street*, round *St. Margaret's Church-yard*, and from thence into the *Abbey*.

* The King went early in the Morning to the *Tower of London* in his Coach; most of the Lords being there before. And about ten of the Clock they set forward towards *Whitehall*, ranged in that Order as the Heralds had appointed; those of the Long Robe, the King's Council at Law, the Masters of the Chancery, and Judges, going first, and so the Lords in their Order, very splendidly habited, on rich Footcloths; the Number of their Footmen being limited, to the Dukes ten, to the Lords eight, and to the Viscounts six, and the Barons four, all richly clad, as their other Servants were. The whole Show was the most glorious in the Order and Expence, that had been ever seen in *England*; they who rode first being in *Fleet-street* when the King issued out of the *Tower*, as was known by the Discharge of the Ordnance. And it was near three of the Clock in the Afternoon, when the King alighted at *Whitehall*. The next Morning the King rode in the same State in his Robes and with his Crown on his Head, and all the Lords in their Robes, to *Westminster-Hall*; where all the Ensigns for the Coronation were delivered to those who were appointed to carry them, the Earl of *Northumberland* being made High Constable, and the Earl of *Suffolk* Earl Marshal, for the Day. And then all the Lords in their Order, and the King himself, walked on Foot upon blue Cloth from *Westminster-Hall* to the *Abbey Church*, where after a Sermon preached by *Dr. Morley* (then Bishop of *Worcester*) in *Henry the Seventh's Chapel*, the King was sworn, crowned and anointed, by *Dr. Juxon* Archbishop of *Canterbury*, with all the Solemnity that in those Cases had been used. All which being done, the King returned in the same Manner on Foot to *Westminster-Hall*, which was adorned with rich Hangings and Statues; and there the King dined, and the Lords on either Side at Tables provided for them: And all other Ceremonies were performed with great Order and Magnificence.

Life of Lord Clarendon, p. 187.

II. From

THOUGHTS *on the* CORONATION.

5

II. From St. *James's* Palace a-cross the Canal, into the *Bird-Cage-Walk*, from thence into *Great George-street*, then turning down *Long Ditch*, (the *Gate-house* previously to be taken down) proceed to the *Abbey*. Or,

III. Continuing the Course along *George-street*, into *King-street*, and by the Way of St. *Margaret's* Church-yard to pass into the West Door of the *Abbey*.

IV. From St. *James's* Palace, the usual Way his Majesty passes to the House of Lords, as far as to the Parade, when, leaving the Horse-Guards on the Left, proceed along the Park, up to *Great George-street*, and pass to the *Abbey* in either of the Tracks last mentioned.

V. From *Westminster-Hall* into *Parliament-street*, down *Bridge-street*, along *Great George-street*, through *Long Ditch*, (the *Gate-house*, as before observed, to be taken down) and so on to the West Door of the *Abbey*.

VI. From *Whitehall* up *Parliament-street*, down *Bridge-street*, into *King-street*, round St. *Margaret's* Church-yard, proceed into the *Abbey*.

VII. From the House of Lords along St. *Margaret's-street*, a-cross *New Palace-yard*, into *Parliament-street*, and from thence to the *Abbey* by the Way last mentioned.

But if, on no Account, the Path must be extended to any of the Lengths here recommended, I could wish, rather than see the Procession confined to the old Way, that it should pass,

VIII. From *Westminster-Hall* along *Palace-yard*, into *Parliament-street*, and continued in the last mentioned Path, viz. thro' *Bridge-street*, *King-street*, and round the Church-yard, to the West Door of the Cathedral.

IX. The Return from the *Abbey*, in either Case, to be as usual, viz. round St. *Margaret's* Church-yard, into *King-street*, through *Union-street*, along *New Palace-yard*, and so into *Westminster-Hall*.

It is almost indifferent which of the six first Ways now proposed be taken; but there is a stronger Reason than mere Convenience for changing the common Course. Some of the Streets in the old Track are so ruinous, that there is Danger lest the Houses, loaded as they will be with People, all pressing forward in the same Direction, should fall down upon the Procession. The least Evil that can be expected is, that in so close a Crowd, some will be trampled upon, and others smothered; and surely a Pomp that costs a single Life is too dearly bought. The new

B

Streets,

6 THOUGHTS on the CORONATION.

Streets, as they are more extensive, will afford place to greater Numbers, with less Danger.

In this Proposal I do not foresee any Objection that can reasonably be made. That a longer march will require more Time, is not to be mentioned, as implying any Defect in a Scheme of which the whole Purpose is to lengthen the March and protract the Time. The longest Course which I have proposed is not equal to an Hour's Walk in the *Park*. The Labour is not such, as that the King should refuse it to his People, or the Nobility grudge it to the King. Queen *Anne* went from the Palace through the *Park* to the *Hall*, on the Day of her Coronation; and when old and infirm, used to pass on solemn Thanksgivings from the Palace to St. *Paul's* Church. *

Part

* In order to convey to the Reader some Idea how highly Parade and Magnificence was estimated by our Ancestors, on these solemn Occasions, I shall take Notice of the Manner of conducting Lady *Anne Boleyn* from *Greenwich*, previous to her Coronation, as it is recited by *Stow*.

King *Henry VIII.* (says that Historian) having divorced Queen *Catherine*, and married *Anne Boleyn*, or *Bolaine*, who was descended from *Godfrey Boloine*, Mayor of the City of *London*, and intending her Coronation, sent to order the Lord Mayor, not only to make all the Preparations necessary for conducting his Royal Consort from *Greenwich*, by Water, to the *Tower of London*, but to adorn the City after the most magnificent Manner, for her Passage through it to *Westminster*.

In Obedience to the Royal Precept, the Mayor and Common Council not only ordered the Company of *Haberdashers*, of which the Lord Mayor was a Member, to prepare a magnificent State Barge; but enjoined all the City Corporations to provide themselves with Barges; and to adorn them in the most superb Manner, and especially to have them supplied with good Bands of Music.

On the 29th of *May*, the time prefixed for this pompous Procession by Water, the Mayor, Aldermen and Commons assembled at St. *Mary Hill*; the Mayor and Aldermen in Scarlet, with Gold Chains, and those who were Knights, with the Collars of SS. At One they went on board the City Barge at *Billingsgate*, which was most magnificently decorated, and attended by fifty noble Barges, belonging to the several Companies of the City, with each its own Corporation on board; and, for the better Regulation of this Procession, it was ordered, that each Barge should keep twice their Lengths asunder.

Thus regulated, the City Barge was preceded by another mounted with Ordnance, and the Figures of Dragons and other Monsters, incessantly emitting Fire and Smoke, with much Noise. Then the City Barge, attended on the Right by the *Haberdashers* State Barge, called the *Bachelors*, which was covered with Gold Brocade, and adorned with Sails of Silk, with two rich Standards of the King's and Queen's Arms at her Head and Stern, besides a variety of Flags and Streamers, containing the Arms of that Company, and those of the Merchant Adventurers; besides which the Shrouds and Ratlines were hung with a Number of small Bells: On the Left was a Barge that contained a very beautiful Mount, on which stood a white Falcon crowned, perching upon a Golden Stump enriched with Roses, being the Queen's Emblem; and round the Mount sat several beautiful Virgins, singing, and playing upon Instruments. The other Barges followed in regular Order, till they came below *Greenwich*. On their Return the Procession began with that Barge which was before the last, in which were the Mayor's and Sheriff's Officers, and this was followed by those of the inferior Companies, ascending to the Lord Mayor's, which immediately preceded that of the Queen, who was attended by the *Bachelors* or State Barge, with the magnificence of which her Majesty was much delighted; and being arrived at the *Tower*, she returned the Lord Mayor and Aldermen thanks, for the Pomp with which she had been conducted thither.

Two Days after, the Lord Mayor, in a Gown of Crimson Velvet, and a rich Collar of SS, attended by the Sheriffs and two Domestics in red and white Damask, went to receive the Queen at the *Tower of London*, whence the Sheriffs returned to see that every Thing was in order. The Streets were just before new gravelled from the *Tower* to *Temple-Bar*, and railed in on each Side, to the Intent that the Horses should not slide on the Pavement, nor the People be hurt by the Horses; within the Rails near *Grace-church*, stood a Body of *Antient* Merchants, and next to them the several Corporations of the City in their Formalities, reaching to the Aldermens Station at the upper End of *Cheapside*. On the opposite Side were placed the City Constables dressed in Silk and Velvet, with Staves in their Hands, to prevent the breaking in of the Mob, or any other Disturbance. On this Occasion, *Gracechurch-street* and *Cornhill* were hung with Crimson and

Scarlet

THOUGHTS on the CORONATION. 7

Part of my Scheme supposes the Demolition of the *Gate-house*, a Building so offensive, that, without any occasional Reason, it ought to be pulled down, for it disgraces the present Magnificence of the Capital, and is a continual Nuisance to Neighbours and Passengers. A

Scarlet Cloth, and the Sides of the Houses of a Place then called *Goldsmith's Row*, in *Cheapside*, were adorned with Gold Brocades, Velvet and rich Tapestry.

The Procession began from the *Tower* with twelve of the *French Ambassador's* Domestics in blue Velvet, the Trappings of their Horses being blue Sarsnet, interspersed with white Crosses; after whom marched those of the Equestrian Order, two and two, followed by the Judges in their Robes, two and two; then came the Knights of the Bath in violet Gowns, purfled with Menever. Next came the Abbots, Barons, Bishops, Earls and Marquises, in their Robes, two and two. Then the Lord Chancellor, followed by the *Venetian Ambassador* and the Archbishop of *York*: Next the *French Ambassador* and the Archbishop of *Canterbury*, followed by two Gentlemen representing the Dukes of *Normandy* and *Aquitain*; after whom rode the Lord Mayor of *London* with his Mace, and Garter in his Coat of Arms; then the Duke of *Suffolk*, Lord High Steward, followed by the Deputy Marshal of *England*, and all the other Officers of State in their Robes, carrying the Symbols of their several Offices: Then others of the Nobility in Crimson Velvet, and all the Queen's Officers in Scarlet, followed by her Chancellor uncovered, who immediately preceded his Mistress.

The Queen was dressed in Silver Brocade, with a Mantle of the same furred with Ermine; her Hair was dishevelled, and she wore a Chaplet upon her Head set with Jewels of inestimable Value. She sat in a Litter covered with Silver Tissue, and carried by two beautiful Pads cloathed in white Damask, and led by her Footmen. Over the Litter was carried a Canopy of Cloth of Gold, with a Silver Bell at each Corner, supported by sixteen Knights alternately, by four at a time.

After her Majesty came her Chamberlain, followed by her Master of Horse, leading a beautiful Pad, with a Side-Saddle and trappings of Silver Tissue. Next came seven Ladies in Crimson Velvet, faced with Gold Brocade, mounted on beautiful Horses with Gold Trappings. Then followed two Chariots covered with Cloth of Gold, in the first of which were the Dutchess of *Norfolk* and the Marchioness of *Dorset*, and in the second four Ladies in Crimson Velvet; then followed seven Ladies dressed in the same Manner, on Horseback, with magnificent Trappings, followed by another Chariot all in White, with six Ladies in Crimson Velvet; this was followed by another all in Red, with eight Ladies in the same Dress with the former: Next came thirty Gentlewomen, Attendants to the Ladies of Honour; they were on Horseback, dressed in Silks and Velvet; and the Cavalcade was closed by the Horse Guards.

This pompous Procession being arrived in *Fenchurch-street*, the Queen stopped at a beautiful Pageant, crowded with Children in mercantile Habits; who congratulated her Majesty upon the joyful Occasion of her happy Arrival in the City.

Thence she proceeded to *Grace-church* Corner, where was erected a very magnificent Pageant, at the Expence of the Company of *Anseatic* Merchants, in which was represented Mount *Parnassus*, with the Fountain of *Helicon*, of white Marble, out of which arose four Springs about four Feet high, centering at the Top in a small Globe, from whence issued plenty of *Rhenish* Wine till Night. On the Mount sat *Apollo*, at his Feet was *Calliope*, and beneath were the rest of the Muses, surrounding the Mount, and playing upon a Variety of musical Instruments, at whose Feet were inscribed several Epigrams suited to the Occasion, in Letters of Gold.

Her Majesty then proceeded to *Leadenhall*, where stood a Pageant, representing a Hill encompassed with red and white Roses; and above it was a Golden Stump, upon which a white Falcon, descending from above, perched, and was quickly followed by an Angel, who put a Crown of Gold upon his Head. A little lower on the Hillock sat *St. Anne*, surrounded by her Progeny, one of whom made an Oration, in which was a Wish that her Majesty might prove extremely prolific.

The Procession then advanced to the Conduit in *Cornhill*; where the Graces sat enthroned, with a Fountain before them incessantly discharging Wine; and underneath, a Poet, who described the Qualities peculiar to each of these amiable Deities, and presented the Queen with their several Gifts.

The Cavalcade thence proceeded to a great Conduit that stood opposite to *Mercers Hall* in *Cheapside*, and, upon that Occasion, was painted with a Variety of Emblems, and during the Solemnity and remaining part of the Day, ran with different Sorts of Wine, for the Entertainment of the Populace.

At the End of *Wood-street*, the Standard there was finely embellished with royal Portraits and a number of Flags, on which were painted Coats of Arms and Trophies, and above was a Concert of vocal and instrumental Music.

At the upper End of *Cheapside* was the Aldermens Station, where the Recorder addressed the Queen in a very elegant Oration, and, in the Name of the Citizens, presented her with a thousand Marks in a Purse of Gold Tissue, which her Majesty very graciously received.

At

A longer Course of Scaffolding is doubtless more expensive than a shorter; but it is hoped that the Time is now past, when any Design was received or rejected according to the Money that it would cost. Magnificence cannot be cheap, for what is cheap cannot be magnificent. The Money that is so spent, is spent at home, and the King will receive again what he lays out on the Pleasure of his People. Nor is it to be omitted, that if the Cost be considered as expended by the Public, much more will be saved than lost; for the excessive Prices at which Windows and Tops of Houses are now let, will be abated, not only greater Numbers will be admitted to the Shew, but each will come at a cheaper Rate.

Some Regulations are necessary, whatever Track be chosen. The Scaffold ought to be raised at least four Feet, with Rails high enough to support the Standers, and yet so low as not to hinder the View.

It would add much to the Gratification of the People, if the Horse-Guards, by which all our Processions have been of late encumbered, and rendered dangerous to the Multitude, were to be left behind at the Coronation; and if, contrary to the Desires of the People, the Procession must pass in the Old Track, that the Number of Foot Soldiers be diminished; since it cannot but offend every *Englishman* to see Troops of Soldiers placed between him and his Sovereign, as if they were the most honourable of the People, or the King required Guards to secure his Person from his Subjects. As their Station makes them think themselves important, their Insolence is always such as may be expected from servile Authority; and the Impatience of the People, under such immediate Oppression, always produces Quarrels, Tumults, and Mischief.

At a small distance, by *Cheapside* Conduit, was a Pageant, in which were seated *Minerva*, *Juno*, and *Venus*; before whom stood the God *Mercury*, who, in their Names, presented the Queen a Golden Apple.

At *St. Paul's* Gate was a fine Pageant, in which sat three Ladies richly dressed, with each a Chaplet on her Head, and a Tablet in her Hand, containing *Latin* Inscriptions.

At the East End of *St. Paul's* Cathedral, the Queen was entertained by some of the Scholars belonging to *St. Paul's* School, with Verses in praise of the King and her Majesty, with which she seemed highly delighted.

Thence proceeding to *Ludgate*, which was finely decorated, her Majesty was entertained with several Songs adapted to the Occasion, sung in Concert by Men and Boys upon the Leads over the Gate.

At the End of *Shew-Lane*, in *Flux-street*, a handsome Tower with four Turrets was erected upon the Conduit, in each of which stood one of the Cardinal Virtues, with their several Symbols; who, addressing themselves to the Queen, promised they would never leave her, but be always her constant Attendants. Within the Tower was an excellent Concert of Music, and the Conduit all the while ran with various Sorts of Wine.

At *Temple-Bar* she was again entertained with Songs, sung in Concert by a Choir of Men and Boys; and having from thence proceeded to *Westminster*, she returned the Lord Mayor Thanks for his good Offices, and those of the Citizens, that Day. The Day after, the Lord Mayor, Aldermen, and Sheriffs, assisted at the Coronation, which was performed with great Splendor.

Note. The same Historian informs us, that Queen *Elizabeth* passed in the like manner, through the City, to her Coronation.

F I N I S

MUSEUM
BRITAN
NICVM

